## 25 Valley View Court Westford, Vermont 05494

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion that the three-year lawsuit against Microsoft was unjustified and wrong. I do not think that Microsoft has infringed on consumer rights or violated antitrust laws. In fact, their innovation has brought so much to our country's technological growth that we owe Bill Gates a huge "thank you". I thought it ludicrous that giving away software was considered by some to hurt the consumer!

Under the terms of the settlement, I am glad to see Microsoft will not be broken up, but the concession Microsoft will be making are unfair to them as a private firm. For one, they should not be forced to disclose internal interfaces and protocols to their competitors. They should also not be restricted form entering into third party agreements for exclusive distribution rights.

Even though the settlement is flawed, our economy and the IT sector in particular, cannot take any more wounds. Finalizing the settlement is in the best interests of the American public and we look forward to the end of the suit.

Sincerely,

Howard Dachs